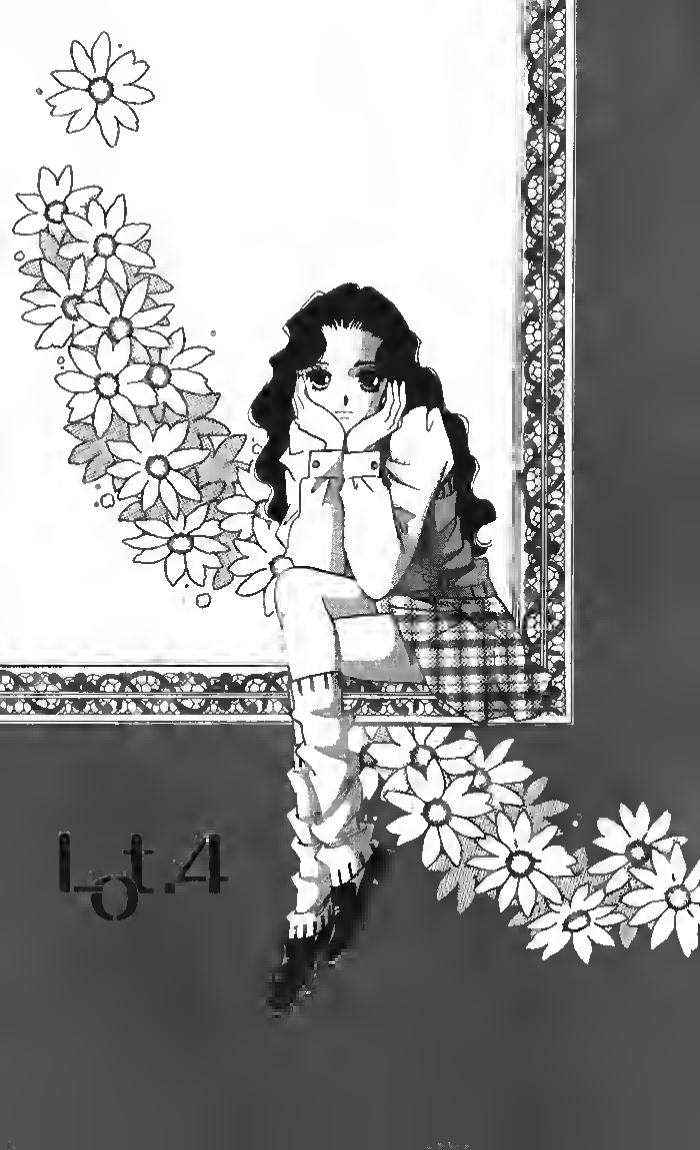
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Anastasia Club

Volume 01 Chapter 04

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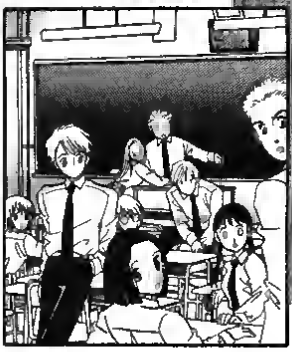
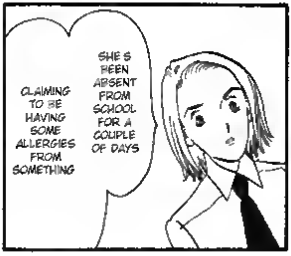
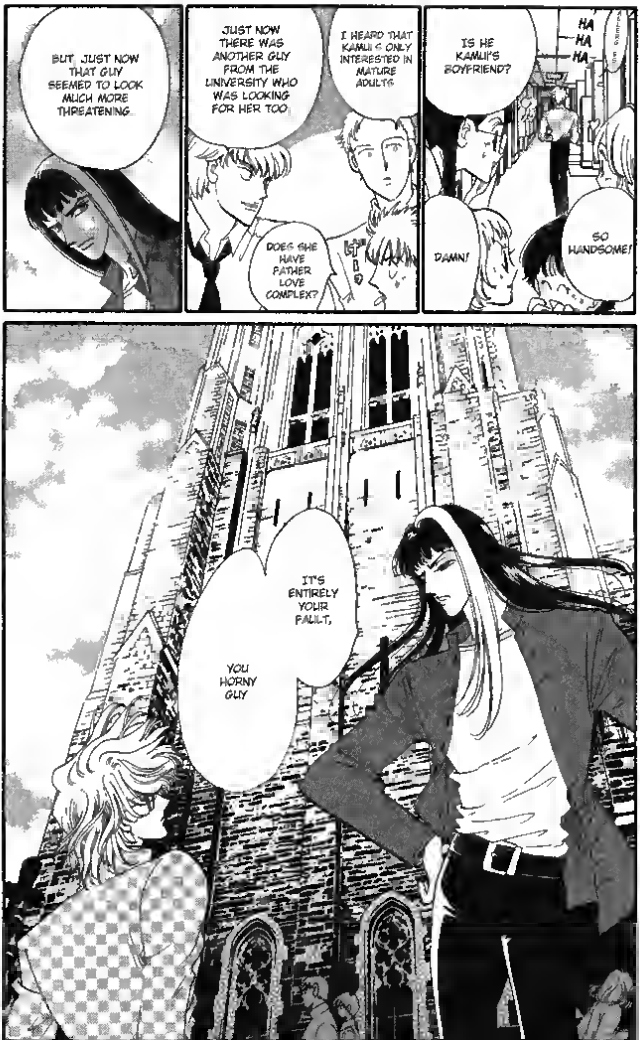
HIGH SCHOOL




SHE'S BEEN ABSENT FROM SCHOOL FOR A COUPLE OF DAYS
CLAIMING TO BE HAVING SOME ALLERGIES FROM SOMETHING

HI!
IS TSUYAKI KAMIJI HERE?


BUT, JUST NOW THAT GUY SEEMED TO LOOK MUCH MORE THREATENING.
JUST NOW THERE WAS ANOTHER GUY FROM THE UNIVERSITY WHO WAS LOOKING FOR HER TOO.
I HEARD THAT KAMIJI'S ONLY INTERESTED IN MATURE ADULTS!
DOES SHE HAVE FATHER LOVE COMPLEX?
IS HE KAMIJI'S BOYFRIEND?
HA HA HA
SO HANDSOME!
DAMN!
IT'S ENTIRELY YOUR FAULT, YOU HORNY GUY

SHE ONLY GOT TO KNOW YOU RECENTLY, RIGHT?
HER TARGET IS YOUR EASTER EGG
THAT HOSHI LADY IS DEFINITELY SUSPICIOUS
KAMUI IS RIGHT.
ぽん
YOU'RE IN DANGER
USE YOUR BRAIN SOMETIMES!
ぐい
DON'T BE FOOLED BY HER APPEARANCE.
EVERYONE WHO HAS AN EASTER EGG IS IN DANGER
YOU'RE NO EXCEPTION EITHER-----

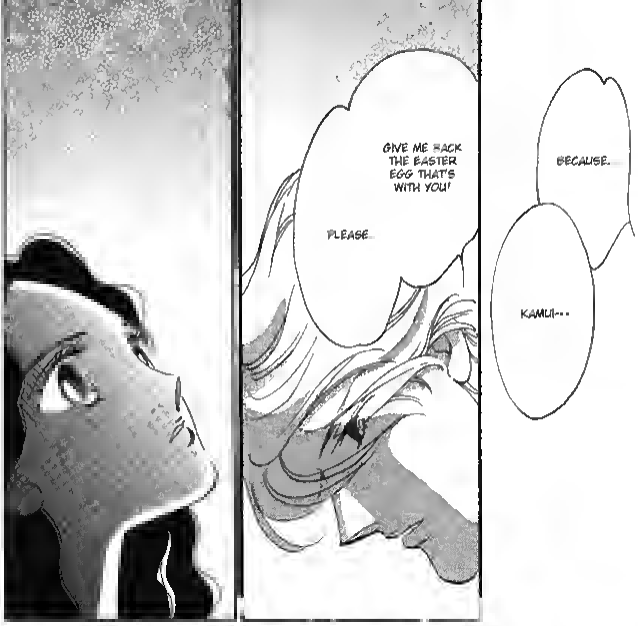
WHICH IS WHY I AM SO WORRIED!
HEY... SENA TAKUTO!
HEY----- DAIICHI KOU
YOU'RE HERE!
NAKAYAMA TE
IT'S GREAT TO BE A UNIVERSITY PROFESSOR WITH NOTHING TO DO AND YOU CAN JUST PLAY AROUND
NOT LIKE ME WHO'S WITH THE TV STATION AND AM BUSY THROUGHOUT THE DAY
I SEE THAT THOUGH YOU'RE VERY BUSY... YOU'RE VERY HAPPY WITH YOUR JOB!
OH REALLY? IS IT OBVIOUS?
ACTUALLY I HAVE SOME VERY INTERESTING NEWS
WANT TO HEAR IT?
WHAT?
EGGIES

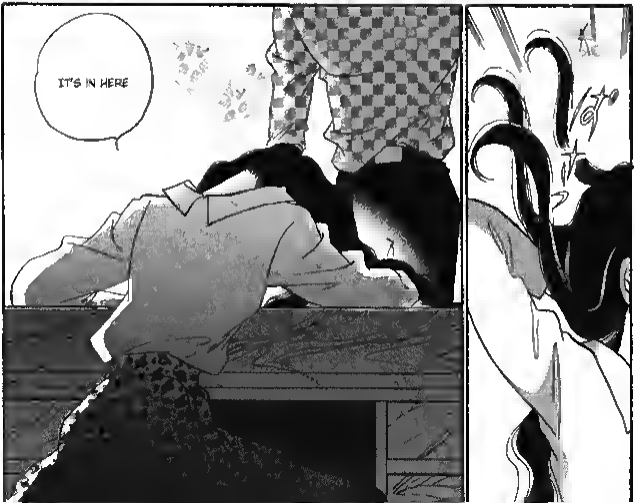
THE EASTER EGG
THAT YOU MENTIONED LAST TIME
House of Antique Tsuvaki
WHAT IS WRONG WITH ME!?
IT'S SO STRANGE---

A FEW DAYS HAVE PASSED SINCE THAT INCIDENT
THE IMAGE OF SEIJA LEAVING WITH HOSHI IN HIS ARMS
IS STILL VIVIDLY ETCHED IN MY MIND
I THINK THAT HOSHI IS VERY SUSPICIOUS AND ASKED SEIJA NOT TO BELIEVE IN HER
BUT SEIJA CHOSE HOSHI
WITHOUT EVEN HESITATING
THAT'S ALL THAT'S ALL IT IS
WHY DOES THIS BOTHER ME SO MUCH? AND WHY AM I SO EXHAUSTED?
EVER SINCE GRANDFATHER PASSED AWAY, THIS IS THE FIRST TIME THAT I'VE FELT THIS WAY
SO...
カラ

SO THERE YOU ARE, IDLING AROUND.
I WENT TO YOUR HOUSE BUT NO ONE WAS THERE
YOU DON'T HAVE ANY PARENTS?
UH?
YOU'RE HERE FOR A "HOME VISIT"?
MY MOM PASSED AWAY NOT LONG AFTER I WAS BORN
MY FATHER WORKS ALL THE TIME AND IS NOW AT THE OFFICE.
SO I WAS RAISED BY MY GRANDFATHER

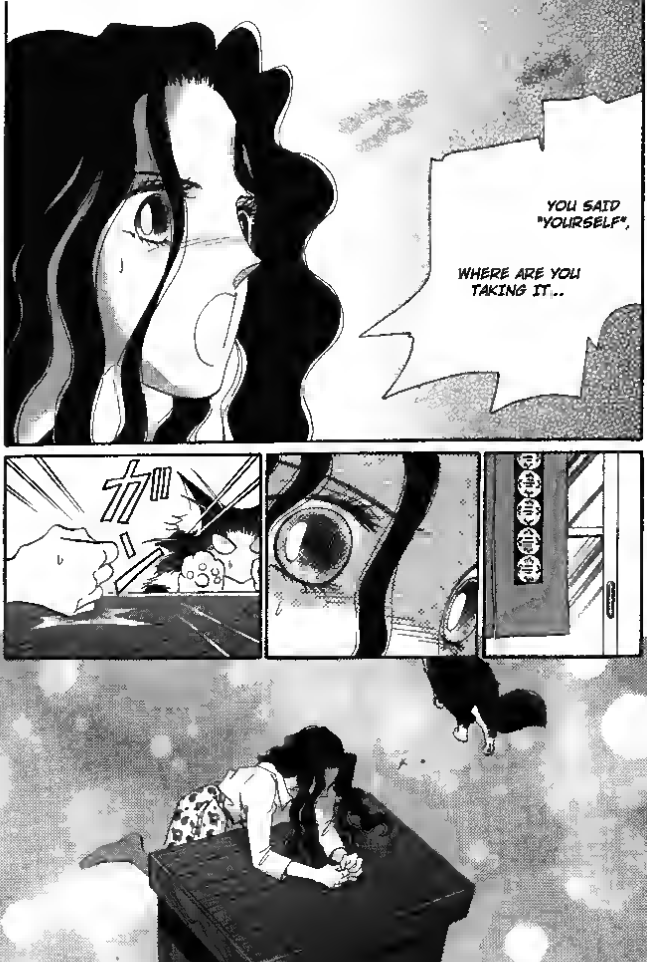
AT AN ANTIQUE SHOP
WHERE ANTIQUES ARE MY TOYS
GRANDFATHER WAS VERY STRICT WITH HIS TEACHINGS.
ON HOW TO DIFFERENTIATE FAKE AND REAL ITEMS.
BUT I LOVED LEARNING FROM HIM
IT MAKES ME REALLY HAPPY
WHEN I CAN TELL SOMEONE WHICH IS THE REAL ITEM AND THE FAKE ONE
BUT,
WHEN I CAN'T BE OF ANY HELP
SUDDENLY I FEEL...
THAT I'M JUST LIKE AN ANTIQUE THAT'S BEEN DESERTED IN A CORNER OF THE SHOP


GIVE ME BACK THE EASTER EGG THAT'S WITH YOU!
PLEASE...
BECAUSE...
KAMUI...


IT'S IN HERE

IF YOU WANT IT
TAKE IT

MY EXAMINATION...
HAS NOT ENDED YET RIGHT?
BE GOOD AND GO BACK TO SCHOOL!
THERE IS NO NEED TO BE SO STUBBORN ABOUT THE EASTER EGG STUFF
KAMUI-----
I'LL SETTLE THE REST MYSELF
THIS IS MY OWN PROBLEM.


YOU SAID "YOURSELF",
WHERE ARE YOU TAKING IT..
ガバ
ガバ
ガバ
ガバ
ガバ

I'M SORRY... PROFESSOR.
MR. SUMI...
SENJI'S EASTER EGG...
I...ALREADY RETURNED IT TO HIM.
I THINK
THAT HE'S GOING TO TAKE IT TO HOSHI
THAT BAKA!
FORGET IT...IT'S OKAY!
OF COURSE IT'S NOT OKAY!
DON'T WORRY.
I'VE BETTER NEWS...
MAYBE,
WE CAN GET HOLD OF ANOTHER ROYAL EASTER EGG...

WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?
KAMUI,
WOULD YOU LIKE TO GIVE IT A TRY?
THAT'LL DEPEND ON YOUR EXAMINATION SKILLS-----

HE'S MY FORMER CLASSMATE
HE'S THE PRODUCER OF THE PROGRAM, MR NAKAYAMA TE-
HI! DAINICHI KOU
Ohanmi 7
TV Station open recording
"Judges of the Fortunate"
"Amateur Auction House"
Participants waiting room

THE LEGENDARY BEAUTIFUL PRIMARY SCHOOL, ANTIQUARIAN!
SO, THIS IS.
MR. SU...SUMI?
THIS IS TELEVISION!
IT'S TOO EYE-CATCHING!
IT'S AGAINST SUMI HOUSE RULES!
ALL PARTICIPANTS MUST COME IN PAIRS
I'M DEFINITELY NOT GOING TO BE CAUGHT ON SCREEN!
PLEASE INFORM ALL PARTICIPANTS ABOUT THE RULES AND REGULATIONS OF THE CONTEST
YOU MUST WIN!
THE CAMERA WILL BE ON YOU!
I AM A HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT!
HUMPH!
EXCELLENT! EXCELLENT!
AT A SINGLE GLANCE I CAN TELL THAT YOU'RE VERY GOOD!
ゆは ゆは

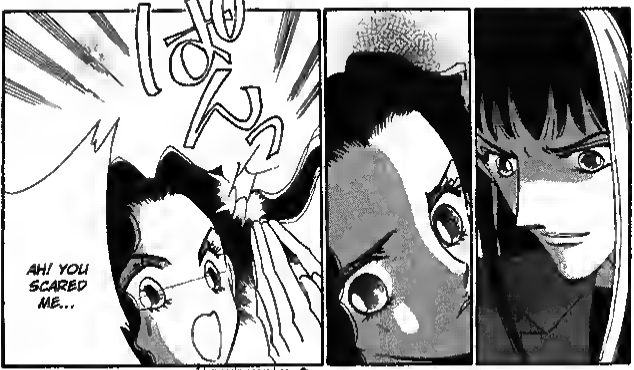
EVERYBODY WILL MAKE AN INFERENCE ON THE MOST VALUABLE REAL ITEM OUT OF THE FOUR ITEMS
WHICH IS A MIXTURE OF REAL AND FAKE ITEMS
THE TEAM WITH THE RIGHT ANSWER WILL PROCEED TO THE NEXT ROUND AND THOSE WHO HAD THE WRONG ANSWER WILL BE ELIMINATED
THE TEAM WITH THE 3 CORRECT ANSWERS WILL BE IN THE FINAL ROUND
THE TEAMS WHO'RE IN THE FINAL ROUND
WILL HAVE TO EXAMINE THE 12 AUCTION ITEMS
THE ONE WITH THE BEST INFERENCE SKILLS WILL BE REWARDED WITH THE REAL TREASURE!
PROFESSOR DAINICHI KOU SAID THAT...
THE ROYAL EASTER EGGS
COULD BE IN THE 3RD ROUND
!

SENA...
TAKUTO
YOU TWO...
PRODUCER NAKAYAMA TE INVITED SENA
"YOU'RE THE ONE WHO APPEARED ON THE MAGAZINE... PRINCESS ANASTASIA'S GREAT GRANDSON MR. S. RIGHT?"
"WOULD YOU LIKE TO PARTICIPATE IN A VERY INTERESTING AUCTION?" THAT'S WHAT HE SAID

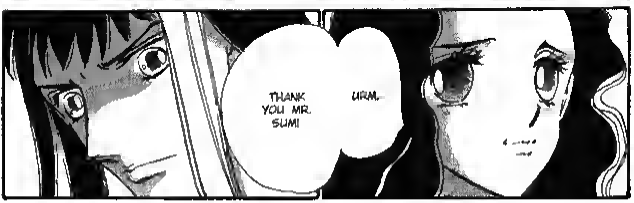
WHAT KIND OF TREASURE WILL MAKE ITS APPEARANCE?
DOES MR. SUMI KNOW?

EVEN THAT'S TOO MUCH OF YOU!
DAMMIT
SENA!

WE'LL DEFINITELY WIN!
GOT IT?
THERE'S NO WAY I'M GOING TO LET YOU HAVE THE EASTER EGG!
YOU KNOW IT AND YET YOU STILL BRING THIS WOMAN ALONG!



Unconsciously scares her



BUT, I STILL NEED TIME TO CALM MYSELF DOWN
I'm encouraging you.
WITH THAT, LET'S BEGIN NOW------
TODAY'S "AMATEUR AUCTION HOUSE".
THE MOST ALLURING GROUP IS MADE UP OF A YEAR 1 PRIMARY SCHOOL STUDENT,
KAMUI TSUYUKI AND A YEAR 2 UNIVERSITY STUDENT, "NAMELESS"?
WHY IS HE CALLED "NAMELESS"?
THAT'S BECAUSE HE DOES NOT WISH TO EXPOSE HIS NAME.
HOW MYSTERIOUS.
SEEMS DIFFICULT TO ME
IN OTHER WORDS THE FIRST QUESTION WILL ELIMINATE 35 GROUPS
PROBABILITY OF AN ACCURATE ANSWER IS ABOUT 35%.
ALTOGETHER THERE RE 101 GROUPS IN THE PRELIMINARY ROUND
HUH?

DIDN'T I TELL YOU BEFORE, NOT PRIMARY SCHOOL,
SHE'S A HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT!
ESPECIALLY THE YEAR 1 HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT...
TSUYAKI KAMUI, WHO HAS INHERITED HER GRANDFATHER'S BLOOD! HER GRANDFATHER IS A FAMOUS ANTIQUARIAN
LAST TIME I ALSO HEEDED THE ADVICE FROM HER GRANDFATHER
REALLY?
JUDGE
...
HOW?
I THINK
HER METHOD OF EXAMINATION
IS EXACTLY THE SAME AS HER GRANDFATHER'S
I'M REALLY LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING HER WORK

3 YEARS AGO I HANDLED A GLASS ARTIFACT THAT WAS ALSO MADE BY MILA
THIS IS THE REAL ONE
THIS IS THE ONE
©
SO, A, B C, AND D, WHICH ONE IS THE REAL THING?
EVERYONE PLEASE SHOW YOUR ANSWER
EXCELLENT!
THE PRICE NOW SHOULD BE AROUND 6 MILLION
THIS WILL BE THE MOST EXPENSIVE ITEM.
C
SENSEI PLEASE REVEAL THE ANSWER
HOW MANY GROUPS WILL BE IN THE 3RD ROUND OF ELIMINATION?

WE'RE ONLY LEFT WITH 9 TEAMS
NEXT QUESTION.
YES!
THEY MADE IT THROUGH AS WELL
SAME TIMEFRAME AS KALEI, C IS THE FAMOUS ARTIST MILA'S WORK OF ART. THE CURRENT MARKET PRICE IS YEN 590,000
EXCELLENT! WE'RE INTO THE SIXTH ROUND OF ELIMINATION
SEIJA AND YOSHI, SO
NOW WE'RE INTO THE LAST STAGE OF EXAMINATION, THERE ARE 4 ITEMS!
A BUTTERFLY SHAPED BROOCH
A PAIR OF RETRO STYLE EARRINGS.
A CIGARETTE CONTAINER MADE IN FRANCE

IS THIS REAL?
LET US EXAMINE IT FIRST!
BE MY GUEST... PLEASE...
IN...INDEED------
AND AN EXQUISITE EGG SHAPED CONTAINER...
MADE IN RUSSIA
LOOKS EXACTLY LIKE THE EASTER EGG WE HAD BEFORE!!

THERE'S A FABERGÉ WORKPLACE LOGO INSIDE
THE SIZE OF IT... IS BETWEEN THE ELDEST DAUGHTER, OLGA AND THE ONE THAT MR SUMI'S EASTER EGG,
WHICH BELONGS TO THE 3RD DAUGHTER, MARIA
FURTHERMORE, LETTER "T" WAS CARVED INSIDE...
"TATIANA EASTER EGG"...!
「T」...
NOW,
9 TEAMS WILL BE IN THE FINAL ROUND OF ELIMINATION!
EVERYBODY'S ANXIOUSLY DISCUSSING WITH THEIR PARTNERS UNABLE TO MAKE THE DECISION

A IS A REAL PIECE OF ANTIQUE WORK WHICH IS WORTH AROUND YEN 2 5 MILLION
B WITHOUT TAKING A CLOSER LOOK YOU CAN TELL THAT IT'S A FAKE WITH A MAN MADE DIAMOND
C IS A REPLICATION OF A DESIGN IN THE PAST MARKET PRICE SHOULD BE AROUND 3 MILLION
IF D IS "TATIANA EASTER EGG" IN OTHER WORDS,
THE ROYAL EASTER EGG
THEN IT SHOULD WORTH AROUND YEN 19 MILLION
IN THAT CASE THE ANSWER SHOULD BE
A!!
KAMUI'S CONJECTURE IS A
I CAN READ HER LIPS
IN ORDER TO GET THE EASTER EGG YOU EVEN USE SUCH METHODS!
I M AMAZED
AFTER THIS NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENED
YOU'LL ALWAYS STAY BY MY SIDE,
RIGHT SENA?

VICTORY!
Ⓐ!!
THE CORRECT ANSWER IS-----
WHAT COULD HAPPEN---
IN ORDER TO GATHER ALL THE EASTER EGGS OF THE ROMANOV ROYAL FAMILY,
3 TEAMS HAVE MADE IT THROUGH THE FINAL STAGE!
THEY'VE WON THEMSELVES THE RIGHT TO PARTICIPATE IN THE AUCTION!
BUT, OUR SHOW ONLY SPONSORS THE CONJECTURED PRICE
IF THEY EXCEED THE BUDGET,
THEN THE BIDDING TEAM WILL PAY THEMSELVES
ALL QUALIFYING TEAMS MUST TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION OF THEIR OWN BUDGET
BEFORE DECIDING ON THE ITEM TO PLACE THEIR BID ON
WHICHEVER TREASURE THEY'VE GOT THEIR EYES ON,
WILL BE AWARDED IN ACCORDANCE TO THE RULES AND REGULATIONS OF THE CONTEST.

WHAT'S WRONG?
OW!
I'VE A VERY BAD FEELING ABOUT THIS.
HOW ABOUT THIS PAIR OF UNIVERSITY STUDENTS?
YES. WE'VE ALREADY DECIDED
SO HAVE YOU DECIDED ON WHICH ITEM TO BID FOR, KAMUI?
THIS LOVELY YOUNG ANTIQUARIAN INDEED MADE IT TO THE FINAL STAGE BEAUTIFULLY!
OF COURSE
KAMUI?
10,000 YEN!
IN THAT CASE NEXT... THE RETRO STYLE EARRINGS
NO ONE'S MAKING AN OFFER?
THEN LET'S START WITH THE BUTTERFLY SHAPED BROOCH!
CONJECTURED PRICE STARTS FROM 300 000 YEN!
THE TEAM WITH THE HIGHEST BID
WILL WIN THE ITEM!

I'M THINKING ABOUT THE "TATIANA EASTER EGG"
BUT SOMETHING DOESN'T SEEM RIGHT...
BUT WHAT IS WRONG...
AH, IT'S STARTING NOW!
DON'T WORRY AND RID!
PROFESSOR DANICHI KOU ALREADY AGREED TO SPONSOR US HIS SALARY FOR THIS MONTH
AND THE PRIZE
AS FOR MONEY ISSUE~~
EGG SHAPED CONTAINER.
STARTING AT 1.95 MILLION YEN
1.95 MILLION YEN
SOMEONE PRESSED THE BELL!
IT'S THE UNIVERSITY PARTNER.
BELL RINGS AGAIN! KAMUI TEAM
2 MILLION!!
2.2 MILLLION!

29 MILLION!
YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE SO PERSISTENT ABOUT THE EASTER EGG ISSUE
26 MILLION!!
25 MILLION
KAMUI---
24 MILLION!
SENA
URGH!
JUST A SHORT WHILE THE PRICE HAS INCREASED BY 1 MILLION
ARE YOU OKAY?
OUR BUDGET...
HOLD IT, KAMUI
28 MILLION!
IS 28 MILLION THE LAST CALL?
IS THIS OKAY WITH YOU, KAMUI?
3 MILLION...!!

YOAH~!
500,000..!
...3 MILLION.
HOSHI!
900,000!!
...3 MILLION...
YOAH!
THIS IS AMAZING...
3 9 MILLION!
IS 3 9 MILLION THE FINAL CALL?
Hey— Wait a minute...
Sis?

--- 6 MILLION.
AMATEUR HOUSE
THE EGG SHAPED CONTAINER BELONGS TO THE PAIR OF UNIVERSITY STUDENTS
IN THAT CASE THE TEAM WITH THE HIGHEST BID WILL WIN

I DON'T WANT TO BUY THAT EGG.
IT'S OKAY. FORTUNATELY WE LOST.
I WENT CRAZY, WANTING TO GET A HOLD OF THE "TATIANA EASTER EGG"...
HOW STRANGE. I SELDOM GET SO EXCITED...

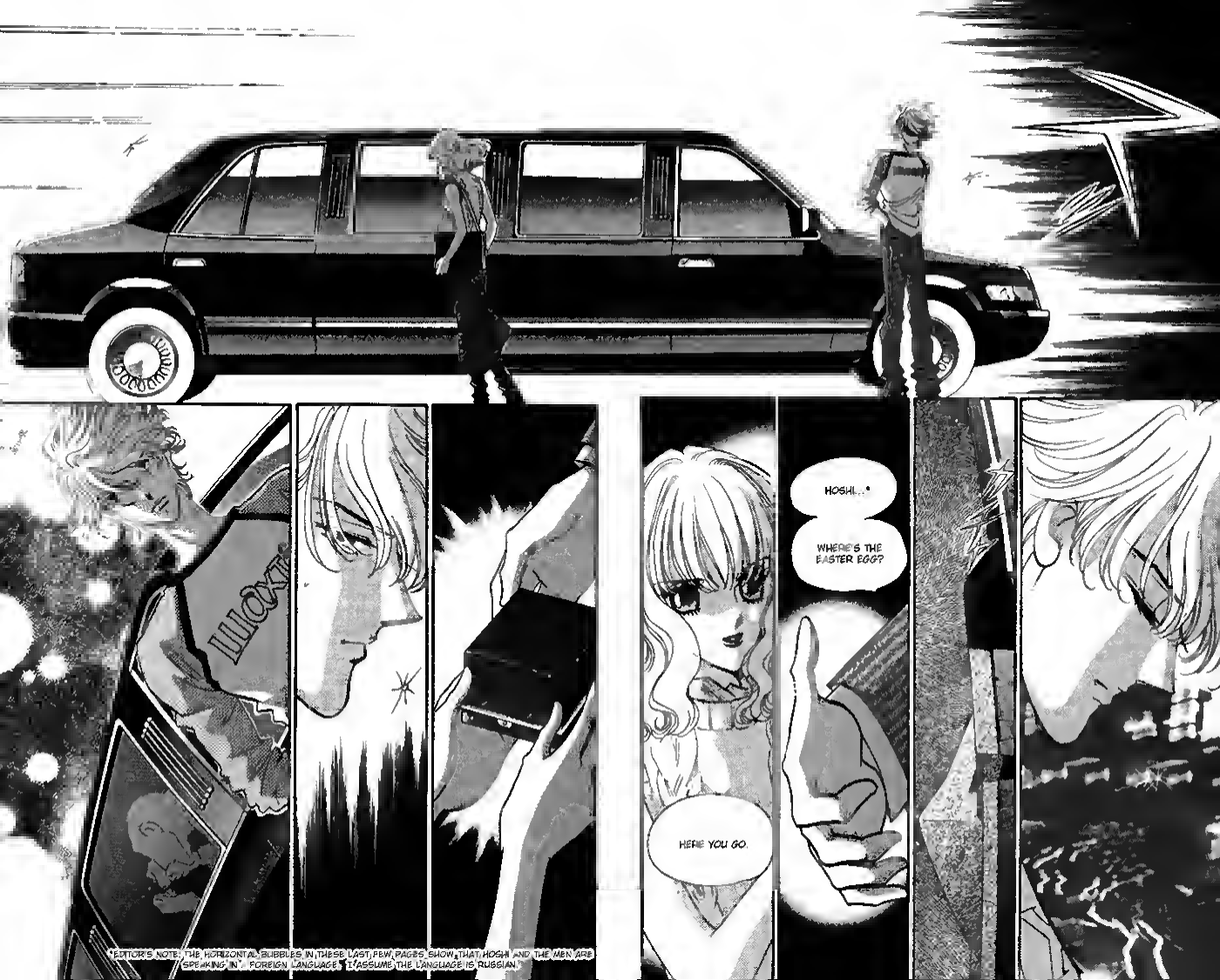
HEY!
IF SENA DIDN'T BETRAY US...
DARN!

HEY.....
SENA AND THAT WOMAN...

IT'S OKAY, MR. SUMI.

KAMUI.
WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU?

SENA.
.....
CLOSE YOUR EYES.
BECAUSE WE LOST.....



*EDITOR'S NOTE: THE HORIZONTAL BUBBLES IN THESE LAST FEW PAGES SHOW THAT HOSHI AND THE MEN ARE SPEAKING IN A FOREIGN LANGUAGE. I ASSUME THE LANGUAGE IS RUSSIAN.

HOSHI
YES?
KAMUI HAD BEEN WORKING SO HARD..
HOW CAN THAT BE...
THIS IS A FAKE
THE REAL EASTER EGG WILL NOT HAVE FABERGE WORKPLACE LOGO IN IT.
LET ME HAVE A LOOK AT THAT GUY'S EASTER EGG
FAKE...?

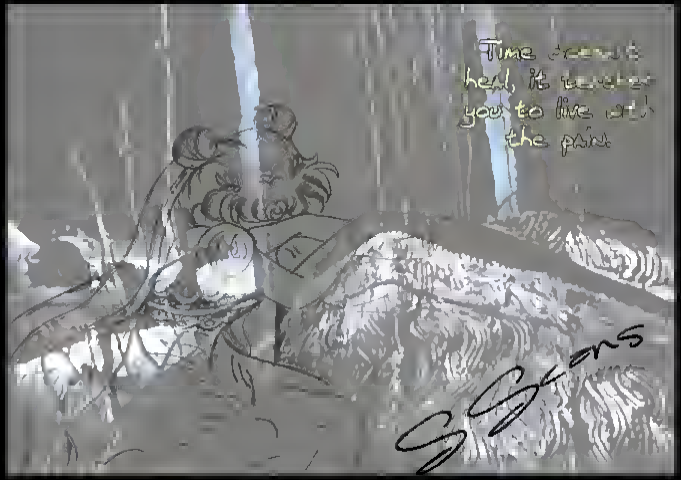
GIVE IT TO HIM! SENA
HURRY UP____!
OPEN IT AND SEE

THIS IS THE REAL EASTER EGG FROM THE ROYAL FAMILY
THIS IS MY CONJECTURE BASED ON MY EXAMINATION

IN THIS CASE... OUT OF THE 6 EASTER EGGS,
WE'VE ALREADY GOTTEN HOLD OF 3
HOP ON!

~EMPRESS~ EASTER EGG
~OLGA~ EASTER EGG FROM THE HARA SHIMA BI ART MUSEUM.
INCLUDING YOUR ~ANASTASIA~ EASTER EGG
THE ROMANOV ROYAL FAMILY LAST EASTER EGG~
THE PERSON WHO MANAGES TO GATHER ALL 6
WILL BE THE PERSON WHO'S QUALIFIED TO GET THE ROMANOV ROYAL FAMILY INHERITANCE. !

= End of vol 1 =


Time doesn't heal, it teaches you to live with the pain.
SSions